THE CHRONICLE

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Clinton reaches out to Region residents

Chronicle photo by Nathyn D. Gibson

Hillary Clinton supporters crowded around the senator, asking for autographs after her town hall meeting. Clinton toured through Indiana for a two-day campaign swing, visiting Fort Wayne, New Albany, Indianapolis, and Muncie.

Chronicle photo by Nathyn D. Gibson

Sen. Hillary Clinton spoke to residents during her visit at the Hammond Civic Center Friday.

Isabel Rodriguez
Editor in Chief

Region residents eagerly waved colorful displays of Clinton Country and Hoosiers for Hillary in anticipation for U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton's late arrival Friday afternoon.

The White House hopeful arrived and immediately reached out to residents saying she "really likes the sound of Hammond, Hillary and History," bringing the roaring audience at the nearly filled Hammond Civic Center to cheer louder.

"I think it's pretty exciting that Indiana is going to get to pick the next president of the United States," Clinton said.

Thousands of supporters listened to Clinton share her plans of assisting working class residents by creating more jobs, loans for students and raising benefits – bringing a "comeback for Northwest Indiana".

Tax will be fair again so it benefits middle-class, working people, Clinton said. China meeting US standards for export and halting illegal dumping of steal in the US needs to be addressed, she added.

Clinton, who was on a five-city campaign swing in Indiana last weekend, also said there needs to be the right economic policies for American manufacturing.

She also stressed the importance of providing proper health care for the working class, saying "it's morally and economically necessary that we provide quality, affordable healthcare of every American."

"I don't think we can get the economy moving unless we figure how we're going to pay for healthcare," Clinton said.

The audience of about 5,000 was not solely comprised of steel workers and unions. PUC's own students and faculty arrived along the thousands flocking to glimpse Clinton, curious of what the presidential candidate had to say.

Patricia Mellon was one of them.

"Once in a lifetime situation, you know. She could be the first woman president and I wanted my son to see her," she said.

Mellon, like many residents, knows it's time to see a drastic change in the presidential hot seat.

"We need a woman in office. Both [Clinton and Obama] bring a different perspective," she said. "I think it just depends on what is important to you, the individual. There's good and bad for both."

The communications advisor and instructor remains unsure where her democrat vote is going.

"We'll see. I wanted to hear what she has to say."

Yet it took only a matter of internet research to assure PUC student Kaligeh Boyle that Clinton won her vote.

"I know she can do more. I don't know if Obama has the experience. I mean I'm sure he'll do good but I think Hillary will be a little better for us in the White House," the sophomore nursing major said.

For an extended version of this article, more photos or to view videos from Clinton's visit, go to **pucchronicle.com**

Disabilities celebrated through art, poems

Tiara Stout
Chronicle Correspondent

Applause and laughter echoed through the newly dedicated YJean Chambers Hall on Wednesday during the third annual "Don't (Dis) My Art."

"Don't (Dis) My Art" showcased the many abilities of PUC students, including art and poems. The event, sponsored by Hoosier A.D.A.P.T. and Student Activities, was one of the many during March for disability awareness.

Former Hoosier A.D.A.P.T President Andrea Warren and professor Corya Channing helped organize the event, and welcomed those who came to share in this occasion.

In honor of "Don't (Dis) My Art" marking its third year, there was a moment of silence dedicated to Berry Fitzer-Varnau, who was involved with Hoosier A.D.A.P.T.

"The Miracle," a movie shown about the life of Tekki Lomnicki, who is the co-founder of Tellin' Tales Theatre Company. The movie was based on her childhood and her testimony.

The event was later moved to the Alumni Hall where a number of students and members of Hoosier A.D.A.P.T recited motivational poems. Among those who recited an inspirational poem was current Hoosier A.D.A.P.T president Emmanuel Milligan.

Samantha Smith, who is currently Ms. Wheelchair Indiana, spoke about and advocated rights to vote despite inaccessible vote booths. "The more people that get involve the better it gets. If you don't advocate for yourself, who will," she said.

Chronicle photo by Chanice Frazier

"Don't (Dis) My Art" showcased art and poems, along with a motivational speech and movie.

ADMINISTRATIVE update

Office of New Student Orientation can prove helpful to ALL students

Do you remember being a new student on campus, when you walked around trying to figure out the difference between Potter, Porter and Powers buildings?

Or when you could not figure out what CLO meant? New Student Orientation is there to help you! The Office of New Student Orientation and orientation staff are happy to help decipher any building's tricky alliteration or acronym.

New Student Orientation is here as a resource for ALL students throughout their academic career at Purdue Calumet—whether you are a new student or a current student.

Got a question?

The Office of New Student Orientation offers students an opportunity to ask questions regarding academics, student services, campus resources and more.

For example, you may have questions relating to ...

- Your English class requiring regular trips to the Writing Center.
- How the International Media Center can be a helpful resource in your foreign language class.
- Where you can go for medical attention should you trip in the SUL parking lot and skin your knee.

If new students have concerns about some of those tricky facets of PUC, there is always someone to assist.

Through our mentor matching program, we pair all students attending New Student Orientation with another student who knows the ropes around campus. The mentor is a great resource throughout a student's first year at PUC.

Students also can pose their question in person at the Office of New Student Orientation (SUL 104B—next to the game room), give us a call (989-2358) or e-mail us at www.calumet.purdue.edu/newstudent.

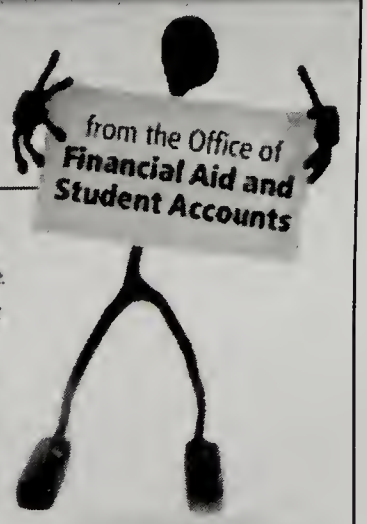
Spread the word...to friends, family

For friends and family considering Purdue Calumet as their university home, New Student Orientation for fall 2008 begins April 25. During New Student Orientation, incoming students and their parents/family members will ...

- Discover campus resources
- Participate in an academic overview
- Set up an advising appointment for course registration
- Attend a campus tour
- Learn how to obtain a student I.D.
- Receive a financial aid overview/consultation
- Meet Orientation Leaders/Mentors
- Partake of special informational sessions for parents/family members

For would-be students, new students or the not-so-new, the Office of New Student Orientation can benefit you!

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Spring 08 - Students with outstanding spring 2008 balances are encouraged to access PCSTAR to see if documents are needed to complete their financial aid file.

The deadline to request a student loan for the current 2007-08 academic year is Friday, May 2, 4:30 p.m.

Summer 08 - Award letters to eligible students will be sent beginning the week of April 14.

Fall 08 - To be considered for a Purdue Calumet scholarship students must submit a Scholarship Interest Questionnaire. Forms are available at the Enrollment Services Center, Lawshe 130, or by accessing...

www.calumet.purdue.edu/finaid/SCHIOUNT 0808.pdf

Students who have not yet done so should file as soon as possible their completed FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for the 2008-09 aid year at **www.fafsa.ed.gov**

What's Going On?

A Look Around...

Salary negotiations presentation

"Salary Negotiations in a HOT Job Market," a video presentation with Donald Asher, America's Career Expert, will be presented on Wednesday, April 2, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Please note that this session will now be held in Anderson 207. For more information, call Career Services at 219-989-2600, or visit SUL 349.

Health and Fitness Fair in SUL

The Health and Fitness Fair will be held Wednesday, April 2 and Thursday, April 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the SUL Concourse.

This will include free screenings, giveaways, and information.

Also available is: cholesterol testing, HIV/Aids testing (Thursday only),blood pressure, vision screening, massages, posture screening and glucose screening.

Good Morning Cafe

Stop by for a free cup of hot chocolate or coffee while supplies last in the SUL Concourse from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m on April 1.

Political discussion about candidates

Is America Ready for a Change?

A political discussion about the current presidential candidates will be held on April 2 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m in Calumet Falls.

This event is sponsored by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. and Social Justice Club. For more information contact fullert1@calumet.purdue.edu.

Blood drive in Alumni Hall

Alpha Psi Lambda PU Blood Drive will be held Monday, March 31 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Alumni Hall in SUL.

To schedule an appointment, call Katy Rojas at 951-7451. Walk-ins are welcome.

Please bring an ID with you on the day of the blood drive.

The Economic Effects of Immigration discussion

The next presentation of the Purdue Alumni Association – Calumet's Platinum Speakers Series will feature John Clark, Ph.D., senior fellow at the Sagamore Institute for Policy Research.

The presentation will be held at the Calumet Conference Center on Tuesday, April 1 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Admission is free and open to the general public. Refreshments will be provided. Classes are welcome. To register, e-mail PAAC@calumet.purdue.edu or call 219-989-2308.

SJC meetings held weekly

Social Justice Club will hold its weekly meetings on Mondays throughout the semester. The meetings will begin at 5 p.m. in SUL Room 321.

Counseling Center walk-ins

The Counseling Center is offering walk-ins to students who would like to talk with a counselor about school, dating, sex, stress, depression, relationships or parenting.

Visit Gyte 5 Tuesdays at 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. or Wednesdays at 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Job fair

Manufacturing Industry Job Fair will be held Friday, April 4 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fitness Center.

Remember to dress professionally and bring multiple copies of your resume.

For more information, contact 989-2600.

Workout incentive

Workout 12 times during the month of March and receive a prize. Workout cards are located at the REC Center Fitness Desk. Mark the date or color of egg for each day that you exercise. Turn in your "carton of eggs" to receive a prize.

For more information, contact 989-2540.

Submitting Briefs

Anyone interested in publicizing events, organizations, clubs or departments in "What's Going On?" must submit briefs the Monday before publication. The Chronicle does not guarantee placement of briefs submitted.

Please limit submissions to four sentences and include the first and last name of the contact person.

Briefs may be submitted via e-mail at chronicle@calumet.purdue.edu or campus cc: mail - Chronicle or to the newsroom located in the Student Union and Library building, room 344H.

THE CHRONICLE

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Budget cuts could affect PUC library

Jessica Figurski
Chronicle Correspondent

Budget cuts and consolidations by the state of Indiana are threatening the future of the Hammond Public Library and other libraries in Lake County.

A new proposal by Gov. Mitch Daniels would change state circuit breakers, a property tax cap.

Gov. Daniels' plan would put a cap on homestead property taxes at 1 percent, rental property at 2 percent and business property at 3 percent.

These lost funds would take away from the primary financing of the library system in Lake County.

Margaret Evans, director for the Hammond Public Library, said the library has a $4 million operating budget which may be slashed in half by 2010.

Evans said with current circuit breakers, the library would lose $72,430 in 2008, $143,564 in 2009 and $1,000,060 in 2010. Using the new circuit breakers, she said the library system would lose $23,423 in 2008; $2,344,377 in 2009; and $2,286,574 in 2010."

The library would be faced with a series of cost-cutting choices, Evans said.

She said the Hammond Public Library would be forced to cut programs, lay off staff and would be pressed for to pay back a $1 million bond issue used for extensive remodeling done in 2000.

Chronicle photo by Nathyn D. Gibson

Miroslava Sibova, a freshman nursing major, studies at the PUC library in SUL. PUC's library could be affected by budget cuts and consolidation in Indiana if Gov.Mitch Daniel's new proposal is accepted.

This budget cut would affect PUC library which relies on interlibrary loans made with the Hammond Public Library.

Because of the close proximity of PUC and Hammond libraries, many students study at the Hammond Public Library.

"We have a number of Purdue students using our library for study and research," Evans said. [Edited to here]

The Hammond public library, a depository library, regularly obtains copies of U.S. government publications at no cost. These documents are often sent to PUC's library for use.

"We do lend and borrow library materials from each other. And we work together on projects," Karen Corey, PUC interim library director, said.

Library consolidation may also occur if the new plan is implemented, resulting in one county library per county. Students would be forced to travel to the closest county library to utilize library facilities.

The Lake County Library, which has 11 branches and services libraries with reciprocal agreements, would most likely service surrounding neighboring areas should this consolidation occur. However, the library board and its directors would most likely decide which, if any, branches would remain open.

"If there is a consolidation of libraries, there may not be a library board system," Rick Banchich, a reference librarian for the Lake County Library, said.

Athena Bakris, a senior majoring in public relations, said she does not utilize Indiana libraries, but understands the potential problem and impact of closing down a local library has.

"It would affect students in Hammond if they don't want to travel," she said.

CTIS Connection

Information Technology Services at Purdue University Calumet

Spring Cleaning for you Computer

With Spring here it's time for spring cleaning. It's time to wash the salt off your car, sweep out your house, and clean up your yard for the coming year. Did you know though, that your computer can use some spring cleaning too? Regular computer maintenance can help your computer run faster longer. Today we're going to look at how to go about cleaning your pc.

3 Ways to Clean Up

Disk Cleanup – To scan your hard drive for temporary files that you do not need. This will free up useful storage space.

To run disk cleanup:

*Click on Start, then Programs

*Click on Accessories

*Click on System Tools

*Click on Disk Cleanup

*The process will begin immediately

*Verify the files to be deleted and click on OK

*Click on Yes

Disk Defragment – Is a system utility for analyzing your hard drive and locating and organizing files and folders. This will help to increase the speed of your computer.

To run Disk Defragmenter:

*Click on Start, then Programs

*Click on Accessories

*Click on System Tools

*Click on Disk Defragmenter

*Click on Defragment

Error Checking – Is a method to scan your hard drive for damaged areas that can cause slower running speed and problems with application usage. If damage is found, it could mean the hard drive may need replaced. Contact your computer dealer for more information.

To run Error Checking:

*Double-click on My Computer

*Right-click on the drive you want to check for errors

*Click on Properties

*Click on the Tools tab

*Click on Check Now under Error-checking

*Click on both check boxes to check, then click on Start

www.calumet.purdue.edu/ctis

Your feedback on our services is always welcome. Please send your comments to Customer Service Center at csc@calumet.purdue.edu.

New master's degree

Kimberly Cheek
Staff Writer

Current and future technology students now have one more reason to make PUC their place for learning.

The university, in cooperation with the Indiana Commission for Higher Learning, approved plans for a new Master of Science in Technology graduate degree at a meeting March 14.

The graduate degree will be available in the 2008 fall semester and will allow for fine tuning of technical skills, enabling students to specialize in a specific technological area of their choosing.

The two-year program is directed toward students of computer, construction management, engineering, electrical, industrial, manufacturing and organizational leadership backgrounds. It consists of 30 credit hours of required classes and a directed project consisting of three credit hours.

The directed courses consist of industry-based projects and projects that can save companies money. It also adds to a resume, said Niaz Latif, dean of the school of technology.

Modeled after a similar and successful degree at Purdue Lafayette, the graduate program is drawing a diverse group of students at PUC.

The program has a number of traditional students, but the department is also seeing large numbers of people already in the work field coming back for further education, Latif said.

The program, created for both technical and management professionals, will have a direct impact on the region and provide an area for growth, he added.

Nasser AL-Muhaiza, a senior majoring in electrical engineering technology, is considering the program.

"I'm seriously thinking about it.A degree that has both the technical courses and the management courses would be great to study," he said. "I think it will help me in the real word."

Tax time is a good time to take a look at IRAs

It's not too late to open a new IRA or contribute to the one you have BEFORE you file your taxes. *Let's get together to see how COUNTRY can help with your financial future.*

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Police Blotter

2.25.08 - 1:50 p.m. CLO
Intimidation
Under investigation

2.28.08 - Unknown SUL
Harrassment
Closed

3.03.08 - 11:40 a.m. CLO
Trespass
Closed

3.04.08 - 5:17 p.m. SUL
Intimidation
Under investigation

3.04.08 - 11:45 p.m. UV
Trespass
Referred to Dean of Students

3.05.08 - 4 p.m. Gyte
Theft
Under investigation

3.06.08 - 6:05 p.m. UV
Possession/substance
Referred to Dean of Students

3.10.08 - 2 p.m. Anderson Parking lot
Theft
Closed

3.11.08 - 4:10 p.m. Gyte
Theft
Under Investigation

3.17.08 - 11 a.m. Gyte
Criminal mischief
Under investigation

3.17.08 - 7:10 a.m./1 p.m. PL 12
Criminal mischief
Under investigation

3.17.08 - 2:05 p.m. CLO
Stalking
Under investigation

3.18.08 - 10:30 a.m. UV
Towed vehicle
Closed

3.14.-17.08 -unknown UV
Burglary
Under investigation

Unknown - Gyte
Criminal mischief
Under investigation

3.06.08 - 5 p.m. SUL
Lost/Stolen Property
Under investigation

3.20.08 unknown - K-138
Theft
Under investigation

3.24.08 - 7:15 p.m. SUL
Lost/ stolen property
Under investigation

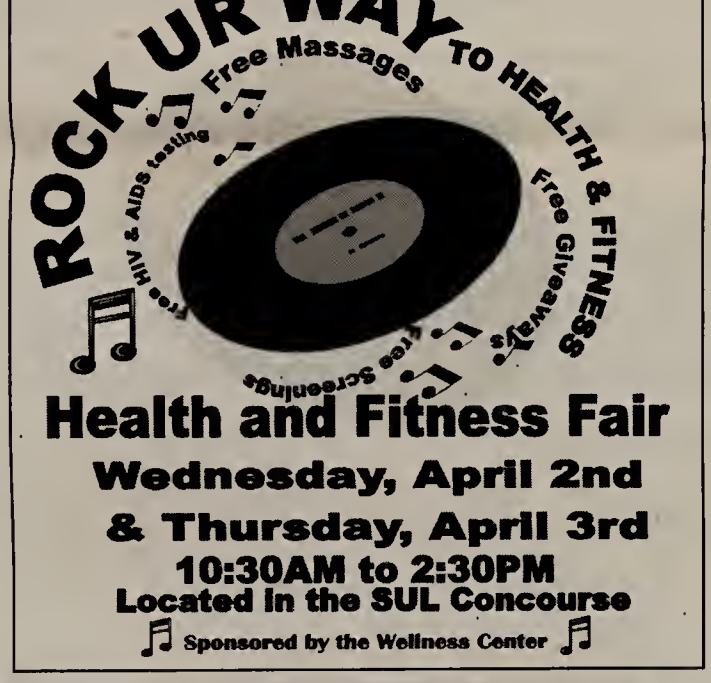
3.26.08 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. UV
Theft
Under investigation

3.27.08 -unknown Porter
Criminal mischief
Closed

Students, faculty question PUC food prices

Chronicle photo by Derek Newell

Student Government Association sponsored an open forum in Calumet met Falls for students to address food prices at PUC. Vice Chancellor for Business and Facilities Mike Kull, Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services Ken Johnston and Director of Chartwells Larry Posen answered students' questions about Outtakes hours, food availability and prices in Oaken Arbor Cafe and CLO Grab N' Go March 26.



Nursing program scores high

Hira Gul
Chronicle Correspondent

PUC nursing graduate students received a 100 percent pass grade on the baccalaureate degree nursing program.

PUC, among the only two schools in Indiana that offer the nursing baccalaureate degree, has seen an increase in its pass grade for the national licensure exam.

Kathleen A. Nix, associate professor in the nursing department, said she's very optimistic of the future of students' achievement on the test.

In 2005, the pass grade was 84.6 percent, increased to 92 percent in 2006 and reached 100 percent in 2008. Achieving a 100 percent is something very difficult to accomplish and only two schools in Indiana currently offer the program, she added.

"Faculty continually upgrades the program. The students are well-prepared to enter the nursing profession," she said. "We're really proud of them. They are really hard-working students."

"The high quality of our nursing program enables our nursing students exceptionally prepared to enter nursing careers," Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Peggy Gerard said.

An easily offended world

Nathyn Gibson
Photo Editor

One day I went on Youtube.com to visit one of the key enjoyments of my childhood, Bugs Bunny. While reliving the event of that fluffy, little bunny, I stopped and realized why I couldn't find any episodes on television today.

The each episode contains elements preventing the series not to be aired today. One episode had Bugs Bunny shooting a noisy audience member while conducting an opera performance. Another episode had Bugs Bunny smoking a cigarette.

Surprisingly, what was humorous to my generation would be unacceptable today. Cartoons like that couldn't be made today, and be argued too violent and offensive.

In 1999, Cartoon Network refused to air Speedy Gonzalez episodes. This a cartoon they have exclusive rights to, due to the mass criticism they received. Many argued that Speedy Gonzalez depicts Mexican people as a lazy, womanizing, hard-drinking population. It wasn't until The League of United Latin American Citizens argued in favor of "the fastest mouse in Mexico" to have the cartoon returned to television.

We have now arrived in a generation where anything can be blown out of proportion and anyone can be offended at the simplest things. How can we still be offended by the littlest thing living in (at the risk of sounding like Rudy Giuliani) a post 9/11 world?

We live in an age where any comment said can be dissected with intentions to ruin someone's life. Look at Don Imus. While trying to improvise a joke, Imus caused his career to nearly be destroyed when Jesse Jackson and Reverend Al Sharpton pressured CBS to release him.

Today's fear of being politically correct is a tool that segregates people with the fear of saying the wrong thing. Charlton Heston calls political correctness "tyranny with manners." It can also be debated that the use of political correctness can also prohibit the free form belief of freedom of speech. Larry Flynt stated it best when he said freedom of speech is supposed to protect the speech we don't like as well as the speech that we do like.

With this PC garbage, some people are afraid to even communicate with each other because of the risk of offending someone. This is not to say we should say whatever we want with the intention of offending people, but if something is said we should learn to let the little things go. Why did we let go of the children mentality that "sticks and stones may break

Have feedback? Readers can contact Nathyn D.Gibson chronicle_photography@yahoo.com or (219) 989-2547.

THE CHRONICLE

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Costly eating

The issue: food prices at PUC

Our opinion: pricely eats prove too costly for students' pockets

PUC students are still hungry for more availability of food on the campus.

Chartwells Dining Services is contracted through PUC and is in need of a change of prices and more availability of hours.

The recent petition signed by 300 students, led by Yvonee Dishmon, a senior political science major certainly should raise the eyebrows of the PUC administration.

Most students are left digging for extra change in the bottom of their pockets because of the unreasonable prices. A reasonable meal consisting of a hamburger, chips, yogurt and a drink will usually cost $8. That alone can cut into our budgets rather quickly, as students have numerous expensive their paycheck is dedicated to.

Accommodations were made recently when a value menu was adopted having a few items on the menu costing only $1.29. The items included were hot dogs, grilled cheese, chicken nuggets, hamburger, and a spicy chicken breast. This was a positive step in the right direction with only more steps needed.

The lack of choices on campus can be looked at like a monopoly with PUC students and staff being the victims. Many students are asking the question, where is the Subway, Wendy's or Burger King on campus?

A healthy competitive market for foods throughout campus will not only lower the food prices at Chartwells but will enhance the overall quality of PUC.

The variation of foods on campus, particularly for vegetarians is a necessity but the prices are not reasonable with the income of a struggling college student taken into consideration. The thought of alternatives is a thoughtful gesture by PUC, but selling them at a high price only adds to the problem.

Oaken Arbor Grill has a limited time when they serve their hot food. A bustling campus is not taken into consideration; instead we must work our schedules around a limited grill time or find some cold food on the plate. Students are then forced to resort to other types of food, which may grow tiresome to those forced to eat every day at Oaken Arbor Grill.

These topics are often raised with concern by students. A shift in price shouldn't be too much for students to ask for.

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

The views expressed in submitted commentaries and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of The Chronicle or Purdue University Calumet. The Chronicle is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet.

The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the writers name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification. The more concise the letter, the better chance of publication.

All materials submitted to The Chronicle become the property of The Chronicle. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Deadline for submissions is the Friday before the publication.

Have something to say?

Write a Letter to the Editor. E-mail us at chroncle@calumet.purdue.edu and be sure to include your name, class, major and a phone number where you can be reached.

Working in fast food services should be made law

Katie Ramsey
Entertainment Editor

People seem to think they become something of a higher power when they're in the drive thru.

Why is that?

I've worked in the food service since I was 16 and have seen a lot of ridiculousness from customers. It never ceases to amaze me some of the stuff customers expect.

At my particular place of employment, we worked outside when we get busy. Whatever was falling from the sky – whether it be rain, snow, hail – doesn't matter.

Apparently us being outside means people don't need to roll down their windows to order when it's raining. I'm not sure what makes them think we enjoy standing in the pouring rain, waiting patiently for them to decide how many inches the window should be open. Then they get mad when we can't hear them over the roar of the rain and think it's our fault. If that's the case, I'd gladly put their order in as I think I heard it.

Hope nothing's missing.

There's plenty of princes and princesses who come through in their Beemers and Mercades and expect the same brown nose treatment from everyone. I refuse. Their Gucci nails and $250 Prada bag may impress others, but I'm not one of them. I'm going to take their order, and move on to the next person. They're nothing more than another customer.

People thinking they're entitled to freebees is one of my favorites. Like most places, when an order is going to take a while, we ask them to pull forward and we'll run out the food when it's ready. One lovely lady slammed her hand down on our counter and shouted "Well, I should get a free piece of cake for having to wait. I know you started putting it on that shelf over there on purpose, knowing I was watching."

It's not fun trying to keep my face from twitching and biting my tongue at the same time.

I wish it was a mandatory law everyone had to work in the food service industry to at least six months of their teenage years. It really opens the eyes to how people are. I've never behaved like some of the people I see because I know how it is. Some times orders get lost or messed up.

It's human error, so stop acting like your world's going to end because someone forgot your cheese cup.

Have feedback? Readers can contact Katie Ramsey at chronicle_entertainment_editor @ yahoo.com or (219) 989-2547.

Wii game is a 'smash' hit

Sean Davis
Staff Writer

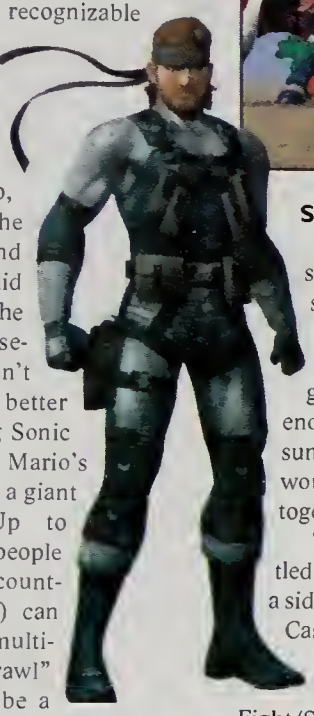
excoboard.com

Super Smash Bros. Brawl for Wii sold 1.4 million copies in its first week.

Super Smash Bros. Brawl is the kind of game that anyone can play. Apparently many agree because SSBB sold 1.4 million copies in its first week and is the fastest selling Nintendo of America game ever. So why is SSBB so splendiferous?

First off, the multiplayer is amazing and fine tuned to the point of ridiculousness.

There is a mind-boggling number of recognizable characters to fight with. These characters include Wario, Sonic the Hedgehog and even Solid Snake from the Metal Gear series. It doesn't get much better than playing Sonic and bashing Mario's head in with a giant hammer. Up to three other people (that's four counting yourself) can play. The multiplayer "Brawl" mode could be a game by itself, but what really is surprising is the semi-deep single-player game.



Expectations were low when considering the single-player game, low enough to make a gamer assume the "Adventure Mode" would resemble a quickly put together pile of Yoshi-poo.

The "Adventure Mode" (titled The Subspace Emissary) is a side scroller that feels like the Castlevania series mixed with some old school Kirby and a dash of Final Fight/Streets of Rage. Each mission entails running through a stage and pummeling the bad guys as one of 35 playable characters (some of which have to be unlocked).

Bad guys sometimes drop stickers which are used in an RPG-like system to increase the characters' abilities. Each of the 31 stages is intersected with a neat and very entertaining cutscene containing the characters of the game. These stages and cutscenes unfold to explain the cute and terrifying nature of each character and their motives for murdering all these innocent creatures in the stages.

SSBB is a very fun game everyone can enjoy. "The Subspace Emissary" can be played co-op with a friend or online with gamers from around the world.

Don't want to play? Watch other battles and bet coins earned in "The Subspace Emissary". There are even some mini-games, like smashing a punching bag as far as you can with a baseball bat.

This time of year few games are being released but thank the good Mario for giving us this.

'Bachelor Party 2' a waste of film

Kristen Hannagan
Staff Writer

"Bachelor Party 2-The Last Temptation" is an awful movie based on tired stereotypes including foreign women, germaphobe nerds and women in general.

Director James Ryan and writer Jay Longino kept track of every lame joke and every lame scenario and strung them into 104 minutes of sheer waste of film.

Mel (Sara Foster) and Ron (Josh Cooke) have been dating for a short while, but Ron's sure Mel is the one. After a botched proposal, the two decide to make it official and announce their plans to get married.

Todd (Warren Christie) wants to make future brother-in-law Ron's last days as a free man enjoyable and offers a last blast in Miami. Ron gets to bring his friends Seth (Danny Jacobs) the token nerd, Vince Vaughn lookalike Derek (Harland Williams) who is constantly fighting with his ex-wives and Jason (Greg Pitts), a slacker dude with a fondness for t-shirts with charming (not) sayings.

Derek's teenage son Tommy (Max Landwirth) gets to join in because his mother dropped him off to spend quality time with his father.

Todd has other motives and turns the trip from one scheme to another to get Ron to falter in his faithfulness to Sara. From a strip club trip gone wrong to a game of strip golf, the boys get into one mischievous misadventure after the other. Oh, and a sex addicts anonymous convention is nearby.

Not to be outdone, Mel's friends throw her a bachelorette party which makes its way to what her mother and other generations of women in her family refer to as a reading group.

Hint: there's no reading. It's equal offensiveness for everyone.

There are only so many times jokes about bodily functions and relationships are funny. In this case, none presented in "Bachelor" were.

Thankfully, "Bachelor" was released as a direct-to-dvd movie, so the general public would not have to be subjected to such a terrible movie.

There must be better ways to make money and build a resume besides humiliating yourself, but no one involved in the movie must have taken the time to find out what exactly.

Male bonding and party movies should be left to the experts, not second and third rate impersonators.

"Bachelor" is unrated.

Asian food grill boasts tasty entrees

Kimberly Cheek
Staff Writer

Chronicle photo by Rick Balutewicz

Ye's, located in Schereville, offers rare dishes and mouthwatering desserts.

Prepare for a unique dining experience when visiting Ye's Mongolian Grill in Schererville.

The restaurant boasts a large menu featuring common dishes like sweet and sour chicken, hunan shrimp and pepper steak with tomatoes, or more rare arrangements like Singapore Street Noodle and Moo Goo Gai Pan, a chicken and mushroom dish.

The endless menu choices will make any Asian food lover rejoice.

Ye's also caters to those who are unfamiliar with this type of food. Indecisive diners can create their own delicious stir fry, picking and choosing exactly what they want.

A long bar holds raw meats, seafood, fruits and veggies like bamboo shoots, peppers and mangoes. In addition, nuts, tofu, ginger, potatoes and eggs are available. A second bar holds an array of tasty sauces like Black Bean, Cajun and Szechuan. Try the tantalizing Mongolian sauce for a tangy, sweet flavor.

After choosing a bowl of veggies and meat, a bowl of noodles and a cup of sauce, diners take their selection to the chef at the grill.

Located just inside the door of the restaurant, the huge circular grill can easily accommodate multiple meals. Customers watch from the surrounding countertop while the chef combines and cooks their ingredients, stirring them with long metal paddles.

Save room for dessert. Ye's offers cheesecake with raspberry sauce and banana spring rolls. These rolls are served with ice cream and are covered with vanilla and caramel sauces.

In addition, fruit smoothies are available in flavors like honeydew, papaya, kiwi and watermelon.

Prices average about $6 to $10 per person. The best deal, however, is the unlimited stir fry lunch for only $9. Create the last dish for lunch the next day.

Ye's spacious restaurant does not feature native colors and décor, as do so many Asian restaurants.

Instead, pictures are mismatched and the walls are painted a light blue with white sponging, resembling clouds.

Although bright and inviting, the walls do not compliment the elegant wooden tables. They make the restaurant look second class.

Despite the suffering ambiance, the food at Ye's Mongolian Grill is definitely worth the trip.

Dine for yourself:
Ye's Mongolian Grill
210 W. US Highway 30
Schererville, IN
(219) 864.5888
Carry out: yes

Which movie listed is not a real movie title?

Pigs, Deadly Flesh, Mystic River, Easy Rider

weekly trivia

Last week's answer: Texas

A wise choice of pizza

Stephanie Powers
Chronicle Correspondent

Choosing a restaurant with a group of friends can be tricky. Arguing usually ensues because everyone wants something different. This problem can be easily solved via Beggars Pizza.

Beggars Pizza, which first opened in 1976, has expanded to 11 locations serving Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana. The newest location in Dyer opened in 2007.

There is seating for approximately 50 people in its cozy dining room's dim lights creating a comfortable feeling. This location has flat screen TV's placed around the dining room with different shows playing, and equipped with a full bar.

The menu selection has something for every taste. Beggars is known for its thin and deep dish style pizza with gourmet stuffed pizzas also available.

Beggars also offers a wide selection of appetizers, salads, soup of the day, chili and sandwiches. Appetizer choices offer everything from mozzarella sticks to mini tacos. Prices for appetizers range from $1.99 to $7.49. Dinner salad, grilled chicken salad, antipasto salad, and chef salad range in price from $3.59 to $8.29. Italian beef, rib eye steak, Italian sausage, and cheeseburgers are some of the items to choose from and prices range from $4.19 to $8.39. French fries or mostaciolli can be added for $1.19.

Fresh pastas cooked to order come with choice of soup or salad. Lasagna, spaghetti, and chicken parmigiana are just a few of the pasta dishes offered and range from $8.75 to $11.85.

Both the lasagna and chicken parmigiana are great values with large enough portions to be shared. Both the red sauce and marinara served on them have a great flavor to them without being over powering.

Every Tuesday night all dine-in pasta orders are buy one get one free.

The owner of this franchise spends time every day in the dining area, talking to guests. The owner and much of the staff even know regular customers by name. The staff is very pleasant and genuinely cares about each customer's experience there.

For a dinner out with no arguing, Beggars would be a wise choice.

If you dine:

3344 Hart St
Dyer IN 46311
(219) 322-4448

Prices for pizza

Thin crust cheese pizza:
small- $7.50
family size- $17.50

Additional toppings are $2.

Deep dish pizzas:
small- $9.65
large- $18.55

Deep dish pizzas require 40 minutes to cook and orders can be placed in advance.

Gourmet stuffed pizzas:
small- $10.20
large- $19

These pizzas require a 50 minute cook time and advance orders are also accepted.

Beggars also offers pizza by the slice for lunch. A thin slice runs $2.59 and a deep dish slice is $2.79.

Star-struck fans swoon over Depp's Region appearance

Chronicle photo by Kristen Hannagan

Region residents swarmed Crown Point last week, hoping to spot actor Johnny Depp. The actor filmed scenes for the movie "Public Enemies". Depp portrays gangster John Dillinger in the movie based on the book "Public Enemies: America's Greatest Crime Wave and the Birth of the FBI 1933-34" by Bryan Burrough. The movie, slated for a 2009 release, has also filmed in Wisconsin and Illinois.

Top pranks to pull on friends

Some may enjoy the April Fool's Day's classical pranks. Whether it is a total heart-stopping lie or something along the lines of unscrewing the salt shakers at the table, these events bring immense pleasure to some and torture to others. Here is a list of top college pranks to pull on your friends this April Fools Day:

* Icy Hott your roommate's toliet
* Start the day off right by pouring some green milk into someone's cereal, all you need is some green food coloring
* It's always fun to glue some coins to the ground and watch passerby's try and pick them up
* Put a raisin just inside the tube of toothpaste. When someone goes to squeeze some out they'll think a nice juicy bug came with their paste
* For the sports enthusiasts: If someone is a Cubs fan, put a sign in their lawn that says "A Sox fan lives here." Visa versa for the Sox fans. The reaction will be priceless.
*Put Hot sauce on a friend's toothpaste.
*Buy dollar store alarm clocks, hide them in your friend's room, and set them to go off all night
*Sign someone up for an embarrassing e-mail
*Put several packets of Jello in someone's toliet and watch what happens the next morning

Have pranks of your own? Share them with us at www.pucchronicle.com

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- 24/7 donor support
- Driving expenses reimbursed

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www.egg411.com
info@egg411.com
Center for EGG Options

EXL Experiential Learning
Learn. Experience. Excel.
EXPO
Wednesday, April 9, 2008
Beginning at 9:30 AM
The Calumet Conference Center
PURDUE UNIVERSITY CALUMET
www.calumet.purdue.edu/exl

New specialty shop offers rare treats

LeAnne Munoz
Chronicle Correspondent

If you're looking for a quirky and interesting place to shop, Monarch might be that place.

Monarch, located in Schererville, may be a distance from most PUC students' usual shopping locations but the charming, vintage/retro feel might give enough reason to include it in the next shopping adventure.

This is not only a one of a kind shop, but also a full-service florist. Entrepreneur and owner Kristy Lopez's opened Monarch December 2007. Her experience in the floral industry goes back 10 years when she attended floral school.

"One day when I was in floral school, I just came up with the name of the place, and it's taken about 10 years to get to where I am now," she said.

The feel of Monarch seems as abstract as the insect it's named after. Colorful garden-like themes are at every turn. This store isn't just for avid gardeners who talk about tea and crumpets. This store is for anyone who might label themselves as lovers of anything eclectic.

Upon entering the store, pretty jewelry floods the eyes and the sound of cool classic rock fills the ears. Objects are set up in a haphazard way, from small corners filled with flower garden items, to randomly placed pieces such as the "Crazy Cat Lady" action figure (with six cats to collect).

While prices might seem rather steep for some, it would be safe to say if something is purchased, it will be original. If the incentive of originality isn't enough to wet the shopping whistle, then Free Flower Friday might do the trick. Every Friday free flowers are given to customers.

"It's the end of the week, and I would hate to get rid of them, so we just give them out. It's a nice way to start the weekend," Lopez said.

Save money spent at Target, and buy a unique and one-of-a-kind item at a very unique and one-of-a-kind store.

If lucky, you might even get a flower out of the deal.

Check it out:

2350 Cline Avenue
Schererville, IN

Chronicle photo by Rick Balutewicz
Monarch opened late last year and has something for those with a quirky taste.

Word Search

M	P	S	L	O	O	F	L	I	R	P	A	H
R	D	U	D	P	I	U	Y	N	O	Q	C	R
R	A	Z	C	C	D	O	M	T	Z	I	P	H
R	G	I	U	G	G	C	A	S	E	Y	R	U
D	Z	B	S	A	N	Y	L	A	K	N	O	p
D	H	I	R	I	O	I	N	A	H	K	X	A
P	S	T	T	C	M	A	B	M	A	M	O	R
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B	P	M	C	A	R	R	O	K	S	P	C	I
S	J	Y	E	M	R	C	L	M	J	C	I	M
R	H	L	M	S	H	H	S	E	U	F	U	W
C	U	B	A	X	E	Z	F	K	I	R	J	B

sandwich
juice box
apple
potato chips
carrots
raisins
yogurt
pudding cup
rhubarb
april fools

Sudoku

hard

	9	6		3			4	
				9	7	2	6	1
		7				9		
				6			3	
		5	8				9	
	4				9			
7		4			5	8		6
				7				
	2	9		1			7	

Hammond Weather

Monday
March 31
Light Rain
45°/38°

Tuesday
April 1
Mostly Cloudy
42°/31°

Wednesday
April 2
Partly Cloudy
46°/36°

Thursday
April 3
Showers
49°/39°

Friday
April 4
Mostly Cloudy
48°/32°

Saturday
April 5
Partly Cloudy
47°/36°

Sunday
April 6
Showers
50°/40°

For daily forecasts, visit pucchronicle.com

Wanted: Grant Writer - Our Family Center (Federal Work Study)
One job opening. Work schedule/wage/salary TBA. 16 hours.Apply online thru CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. Job ID: 6707.

Wanted: Peer Tutor - Student Support Services (Federal or Non-Federal Work Study only)
One job opening. Schedule/ Hours per week/ Wage/Salary TBA. Flexible schedule. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. Job ID: 3395.

Wanted: Office Clerk - Registration (Federal Work Study only)
One job opening. Schedule TBA. 10-20 hours per week. $6.30/hr. Flexible schedule. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. Job ID: 3409.

Wanted: Reading Tutor – Riley Child Center (Federal Work Study only)
One job opening. Work schedule/wage TBA. 10 hours per week. Apply online thru CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. Job ID: 5918

Wanted: Server Admin. Team Technician - CTIS (Federal or Non-Federal Work Study)
Several job openings. Flexible schedule. 20 hours per week. $6.50/hr. Apply online thru CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. Job ID: 4098

Wanted: Special Events Helper (Federal Work Study)
Several job openings. Work schedule/hours per week/wage/salary TBA. Apply online thru CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID: 7361.

Wanted: Research Assistant (Professor Xiaoli Yang)
Work schedule/hours per week/wage/salary TBA. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. Job ID: 4115.

Wanted: Student Worker - School of Management (Federal Work Study only)
One job opening. Work schedule TBA. 10 hours per week. $5.85-$7.25 per hour. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. Job ID: 5822.

Wanted: Facility Student Worker - The Calumet Conference Center (Federal Work Study only)
One openings.Work schedule TBA. 10-15 hours per week. $8/hour. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID: 4626.

Wanted: Tutors – Lighthouse Academics Inc. (Federal Work Study only)
Several job openings. Work schedule/hours per week/wage/salary TBA. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. Job ID: 7109

Wanted: Proctor
One opening. Work schedule/ wage/salary TBA. 15-20 hours per week. Apply online thru CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID:3580.

Wanted: Procurement & General Services Student Worker, Mail Services (Federal Work Study Only)
One opening. Work schedule TBA. 12-20 hours per week. $7/hr. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID: 6962.

Wanted: Computer Lab Teacher - Our Family Center (Federal Work Study)
One opening. Work schedule/wage/salary. 4 hours per week. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID: 3634.

Wanted: Assistant Counselor Intern - Our Family Center (Federal Work Study)
One opening. Work schedule/hours per week/wage TBA. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID: 6706.

Wanted: Graduate Assistant - Office of Financial Aid (Federal Work Study only)
One opening. Work schedule/wage/salary TBA. 20 hour per week. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. Job ID: 7042.

Wanted: Student Aid - Research & Technical Info (Federal Work Study Only)
One opening. Schedule/Hours/Wage TBA. Apply online thru CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID:7429.

Wanted: General Secretary/Business Management Position - Hammond Innovation Center (Federal work Study)
One opening. Schedule/Wage TBA. 15-20/hrs per week. Apply online thru CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID:7492.

Wanted: Graduate Aid - Water Institute (Federal Work Study Only)
One opening. Schedule/Wage TBA. 15 hours per week. Apply online thru CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID:7465

Wanted: Academic Tutor/Mentor - Live Up Art Inc. (Federal Work Study Only)
Openings/ work schedule/ hours per week/wage TBA. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID: 5983.

Wanted: Youth Counselor - International Community Alliance (Federal Work Study Only)
Two openings. Work schedule TBA. 20-30 hours per week. $7-$9/hr. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID: 6360.

Wanted: Reading & Math Tutor/Mentor - Our Family Center (Federal Work Study Only or Internship Only)
One opening. Work schedule/wage/salary TBA. 12-18 hours per week. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID: 6701.

Wanted: Office Clerk- New Family Learning Center (Federal Work Study Only or Non Federal Work Study)
One opening. Work schedule TBA. 16-20 hours per week.$7.50/hr. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID: 6708.

Wanted: Fitness and Recreation (Federal Work Study only)
One job opening. Work schedule to be announced. 12+ hours per week. $5.50 per hour. Apply online through CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. Job ID: 3542.

Wanted: Community Art Center (Federal Work Study or Internship)
One opening. Work schedule/ wage/ salary TBA. 20 hours per week. Apply online thru CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID:3539.

Wanted: Child/Youth Counselor – Our Family Center (Federal Work Study only)
Several openings. Work schedule/hours per week/wage/salary TBA. Apply online thru CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID:6147.

Wanted: Recruitment Student Worker - Administrative/Support Services (Federal Work Study)
One opening. Work schedule TBA. 12 hours per week. $6/hr. Apply online thru CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID: 3961

Wanted: Mathematics and Lab Science Instructor
One opening. Work schedule TBA. 24 hours per week. Wage/salary negotiable. Apply online thru CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID:7304.

Wanted: Project Assistant (Federal Work Study or Non-Federal Work Study)
2 openings. Work schedule TBA. 30 hours per week. Wage/salary negotiable. Apply online thru CareerTrax or visit Student Employment in SUL 349. CareerTrax Job ID:7305.

Wanted: SECRETARY

Dietrich Design Group, in Hammond, IN, has an opening for a PT Secretary. Applicants must possess basic math, reading and accuracy skills.
Experience with MS Office suite required; experience with database and analysis desired. Must be able to complete all office activities, including receptionist duties, be motivated and able to work independently, and have the ability to work with all levels of staff. HS diploma/GED required; some college work desired. Candidates must submit their resume w/salary requirements by April 4, 2008 to:

DIETRICH
INDUSTRIES
Attn: HR Manager
1435 W. 165th Street
Hammond, IN 46320

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- Business Editor
- Production Manager
- Distribution Manager

Sox bringing swagger back to the South Side

Jeremy Homan
Assistant Sports Editor

After a disappointing season in 2007, the White Sox made some additions and subtractions to their ball club to help put them in contention.

Offense: On paper, the White Sox have one of the top offenses. The Sox have six offensive starters returning to the lineup. Jim Thome, Paul Konerko and Jermaine Dye will anchor the middle of the lineup for the third straight season. The addition of Orlando Cabrera from the Angels and Nick Swisher from the Athletics give the Sox two players with high on base percentage. Cabrera had a .345 OBP and Swisher had a .381 with Oakland last season.

Once he comes of the DL, Jerry Owens will man the lead-off spot, giving the Sox speed at the top of the lineup – which they desperately need. Joe Crede will make his return to the lineup for the first time since going to down for the season last May with a back injury. Crede can provide the offense the Sox lacked last season. It's hard to have a worse offensive statistical year as the Sox did last year. The Sox have the offense to contend this year. They have a complete offense and hope to put up big numbers.

Rotation: The rotation for the Sox has many questions. The Sox have three veterans returning: Mark Buehrle, Javier Vasquez and Jose Contreras. Second year man John Danks and Gavin Floyd will round out the rotation.

The Sox will have to see how John Danks responds to a shaky rookie season in which he went 6-13 with a 5.50 ERA. Floyd was a spot starter for the Sox and had his highlights, but overall, still had some things to work on. After not being able to land another starter, the Sox will rely on both Danks and Floyd to step up.

Buehrle and Vasquez will give the Sox the innings they want and at least 12-15 wins from both. The biggest question and factor for the Sox rotation will be Contreras. He had a nightmare season last year and ended up in the bullpen at one point. Contreras had a 5.57 ERA and lost a career high 17 games. The rotation doesn't look to be able to compete with the powerhouses in the AL Central.

Bullpen: The bullpen last year was one of the worst in the majors. Watching the bullpen was like watching a bad soap opera. Lead after lead was given up. The only bright spot was Bobby Jenks. The Sox made it a priority to revamp the bullpen.

They went out and acquired set-up man Scott Linebrink to anchor the back end of the bullpen. Linebrink has a career 3.21 ERA and is expected to be a solid set-up man for Jenks. The Sox also acquired Octavio Dotel to provide a solid relief man. Dotel, if healthy, can give the Sox what they are looking for. The bottom line is, if the Sox bullpen doesn't perform, the Sox will be in the same position as last season.

The Sox have players to contend this season, but with the Indians and Tigers in their division, the Sox will probably be on the outside looking in come playoff time. The Sox will do better than last year, but it won't be enough to make the playoffs.

Cubs enter season as NL Central favorite

Joe Wielosinski
Staff Writer

It officially marks 100 years since the Chicago Cubs last won the World Series. Many players have come and gone over that time span, but this year's team has the Wrigley faithful hoping that this year will end the drought.

Newcomers: The defending National League Central champions made a big splash in the free agent market, signing Japanese export Kosuke Fukudome to take over in right field. In nine seasons for the Chunichi Dragons, Fukudome hit .305 while clubbing out 192 home runs and driving in 647 runs. He is known for having natural speed and a terrific throwing arm, and should be a tremendous help to the Cubs right field position.

The team had five different players in at least 10 games at the position throughout the 2007 season. Fukodome will be a talented fielder who can add some pop to the lineup as well.

The Cubs also signed veteran starting pitcher John Lieber. A fan favorite on the North side, Lieber recorded a career high 20 victories for the Cubs in 2001. He will start out the season in the bullpen as a long reliever, but has the potential to take anyone's spot in the starting staff.

Also signed was outfielder Reed Johnson. The former Blue Jay can play all three outfield positions, and looks to split time with young prospect Felix Pie. Johnson has a career .281 batting average and could be a sleeper in the Cubs lineup.

Bullpen: The Cubs bullpen is one of the more dominating staffs in the league. Former ace Kerry Wood will move from starter to closer after posting a 3.60 ERA during spring training. Setting up will be veteran Bob Howry and young flamethrower Carlos Marmol.

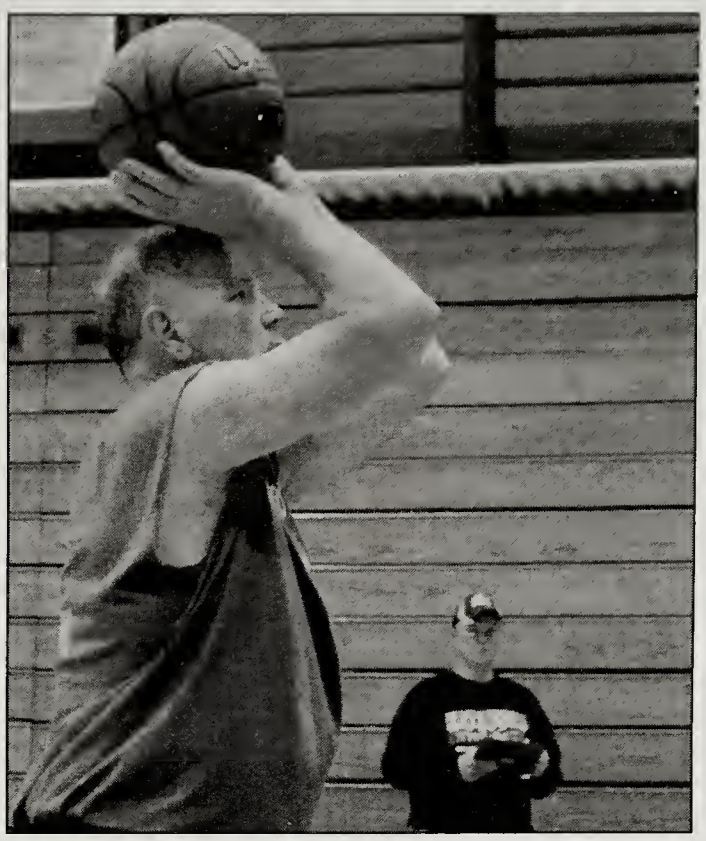
Last season's closer Ryan Dempster moves in to the rotation as the number 5 starter. Leading the starting staff is Carlos Zambrano. Now that "Big Z" has his contract extension out of the way and no other distractions, expect the big right-hander to start the season strong, and possibly improve on his 18 win season.

Offense: The team has an amazing lineup. Alfonso Soriano, Aramis Ramirez and Derek Lee all have the potential to hit 40 or more home runs. Soriano has the rare combo of power and speed, Ramirez is one of the best power hitters in the game (slugging .549 last season), and Lee's .994 fielding percentage shows he is defensively one of the best first basemen in the game.

With not much competition from the rest of the National League Central, as well as the whole NL in general, 2008 could be the year the "Curse of the Billy Goat" is broken.

'Geezerjock' takes aim in Vegas

Nathyn D. Gibson
Photo Editor



Chronicle photo by Nathyn D. Gibson

The 62-year-old Bob Owens practices his three-point shot in the REC Center gym. The PUC basketball intramurual official is currently training for competition in Las Vegas.

There's a reason he is known as "The Geezerjock".

At age 62, "The Bullseye Guy" Bob Owens has received 28 medals at the World Senior Olympics in the last eight years.

"It's a lot of hard work and lot of things people don't see. [People] don't see me in August and September, putting up 15,000 to 20,000 shots before I participate," Owens said in an phone interview.

The PUC basketball intramural officiator plans to put his skills to the test for the first national three-point shooting championship in Las Vegas.

Within his 35 years experience in helping other players with basketball skill, Owens had the chance to work with many current NBA star including Spud Webb, Stephon Marbury, and Kevin Garnett.

It is not uncommon to see Owens working out in the fitness center. He is currently training with the PUC Fitness Center Director John Bobalik as he prepares for competition held on May 17 and 18.

Owens has put $10,000 on the line as he will be competing against 64 of the nation's best known three-point shooters.

When Owen is not training physically, he's training mentally. He studies the Bible and many psychology books including Conway Stone's "Dream High."

"Your body does not want to train, and that's why I'm into the Bible a lot and [also] into psychology books too because they confirm a lot of what the Bible says," he said.

Out of the 64 shooters, only the top eight will receive cash prizes. The top prize is $150,000 while the eight place prize money will be $20,000.

This will be the first basket event he will compete in that has a money grand prize.

According to the three-point championship Web site, each shooting round will last one minute. A maximum of 25 shots can be counted and each shot will count as one point, except for the "money ball," which will be worth two points. A play can receive a maximum score of 30 points.

The competition will be aired on "The Competitive Edge" on ESPN2 and Fox.

Who's on third?

Jeremy Homan
Assistant Sports Editor

They say three is a crowd. But for Josh Fields, two is a crowd.

Fields will be starting at third base this season, but for the Charlotte Knights and the not the White Sox.

The White Sox third base prospect will start the 2008 season in the minor leagues once again. After not being dealt in the off-season, Joe Crede will be at the hot corner come the start of the season for the southsiders. It came down to there being no room for two sensational third basemen.

Fields showed last season he belonged in the majors when he came up last May after Crede went down for the season with a back injury. Fields hit .244 with 23 home runs and 67 RBIs in just 100 games. Fields led all American League rookies in homers.

The demotion for Fields should have come as no surprise. Unless Crede was dealt before the start of the season, Fields would be where he is now – in the minors. Crede is healthy and the White Sox had their hands tied in the situation. There was just no room for two third basemen of that caliber without one of them riding the bench the majority of the season.

Though Crede did not have what you would call a great spring, hitting just .179 with a homer, he was out there to get back in the groove of things. At the top of his game, Crede is one of the top three third basemen in the game.

Fields should take this demotion as an opportunity to improve, such as his strikeout count. Fields struck out 125 times in 373 at bats.

The Sox are in a pickle. They have two third basemen who are number one on almost any team, but they can only have one. The fact is that Fields is the future of this organization. They have to go with the youth. Crede will be 30 this year and the Sox have to look towards the future, which is Josh Fields.

Chances are high that the Sox will not sign Crede to a deal surpassing this season. Their best bet would be to trade Crede by the July 31 trade deadline and get Fields back up in the majors where he belongs. Instead of leaving Fields in the minors for an entire season and lose Crede to free agency at the end of the season, they should trade Crede and get something in return. This could be more prospects which the Sox have nearly none of after trading the bulk of them away.

There is no doubt that Fields will be premiere third basemen in the future. As hard as it will be for Sox fans to let Crede go, a player who helped them towards their World Series run just three years ago, fans have to realize who the future is.

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NATIONAL LAMPOON SPORTS MINUTE

The Chicago Cubs have named Kerry Wood their official closer. That way the twenty innings he pitches before he gets injured will be a bit more spread out.

Jose Canseco has just completed his second book, making him the only man in the world to have written two books and read none. The book is tentatively titled, "In Case You Don't Hate Me Yet."

A slick new Speedo swimsuit that has led to 12 world records this year will be examined by swimming's world governing body. A bathing suit hasn't attracted this much attention since Heidi Klum.

Cincinnati welcomed the opera to town. Then they realized it was just Chad Johnson saying, "me-me-me-me-me".

Pacers forward Mike Dunleavy told reporters that his father is his biggest fan. We are still searching for his second biggest fan.

Written by Steve Hofstetter, Keith Alberstadt, Adam Hofstetter, Cody Marley, Ryan Murphy, Elliot Steingart, and Chris Strait

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Peregrines start off-season with high hopes

Ryan Metz
Sports Editor

After a difficult season posting only six wins and bringing three recruits in to an already packed lineup with no seniors, one thing is certain: competition for spots on the roster will happen.

"It is possible we may lose one or two players that were on the roster last year," men's PUC coach Grayling Gordon said. "We're going to open up the competition and see what happens in the off-season."

After his first season coaching the Peregrines, Gordon saw plenty of room for improvement.

"It was a rollercoaster season; a lot of highs and lows. I was pleased with a lot of individual improvement but as a team we have a lot of work to do," he said.

The positives for the season happened in the classroom, after everyone finished the season eligible after last season's cancellation due to academic ineligibilities. The team GPA improved from 1.8 to 2.6 after a new commitment in the classroom.

"We worked with them on their time management," Gordon said, "We needed to remind them why they are really here, and that is to get an education."

Returning to the lineup next year is leading scorer Charles Cruz, a junior who scored 14.8 points per game and grabbed 5.4 rebounds per game last season. Besides Cruz in the post will be 6-foot-8 center Kevin Thomas, who finished his junior season scoring 11.3 points per game and grabbing 4.7 rebounds per game.

The adjustment to a new coach and the college game happened with nine of the 13 players, which all happened to be freshman.

"I think the freshmen that were out there are going to help us down the line. But we all need to grow together better," Gordon said.

After the juniors Cruz and Thomas posted double digit points per game, five freshmen followed them in that statistical category.

Leading the freshman class were guards Josh Collins and Michael Patton. Collins finished his freshman campaign strong and led the team with 38 made three point field goals. The 6-foot-7 athletic Patton led the team in rebounding with 5.5 rebounds per game.

Adding to the mix next season will be three incoming recruits: 6-6 Jarrid Bradley from MacOnaquah High School in Peru, Ind.; 6-2 Eric Schooler from Bishop Noll and 6-7 Wayne Montgomery from T.F. North. in Calumet City.

"We're excited about this recruiting class," Gordon said. "Jarrid should come in and play a lot right away. His nickname is 'the big fundamental,' and he can score around the basket and brings a lot of intensity."

Chronicle archive photo

Freshman guard Josh Collins (12) was among the nine freshmen who played this season for the Peregrines. The Peregrines return all players and will add three recruits to the mix.

Ryan Metz's

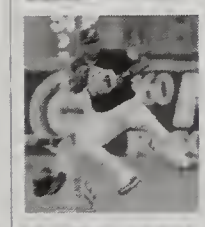
Weekly High Five

Top baseball players under 25-years-old

1 Miguel Cabrera

• Detroit Tigers - 24-years-old - third basemen

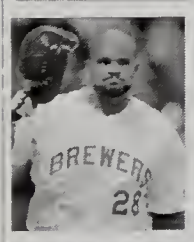
A $152.3 million seven-year extension by the Tigers in Spring Training all but assured what they already knew: this guy is worth the dough. His numbers at this stage in his career are slightly above what A-Rod's stats were. In 2007 he hit .320, 34 homers and 119 RBIs.



2 Hanley Ramirez

• Florida Marlins - 24-years-old - shortstop

After a 2007 in which he posted a .332 batting average, 51 stolen bases and 29 home runs, the sky is the limit for this Marlin. The scary part is he is even better defensively. He's a gazelle in the field, snatching balls hit deep in the hole and to his right as well.



3 Prince Fielder

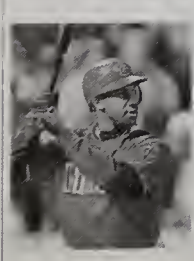
• Milwaukee Brewers - 23-years-old - first basemen

Fielder enters the 2008 on a new diet, he committed himself to being a vegetarian. No meat shouldn't stop this slugger from continuing to put up power numbers like 50 home runs and 119 RBIs like he did last season.

4 Joba Chamberlain

• New York Yankees - 22-years-old - RHP

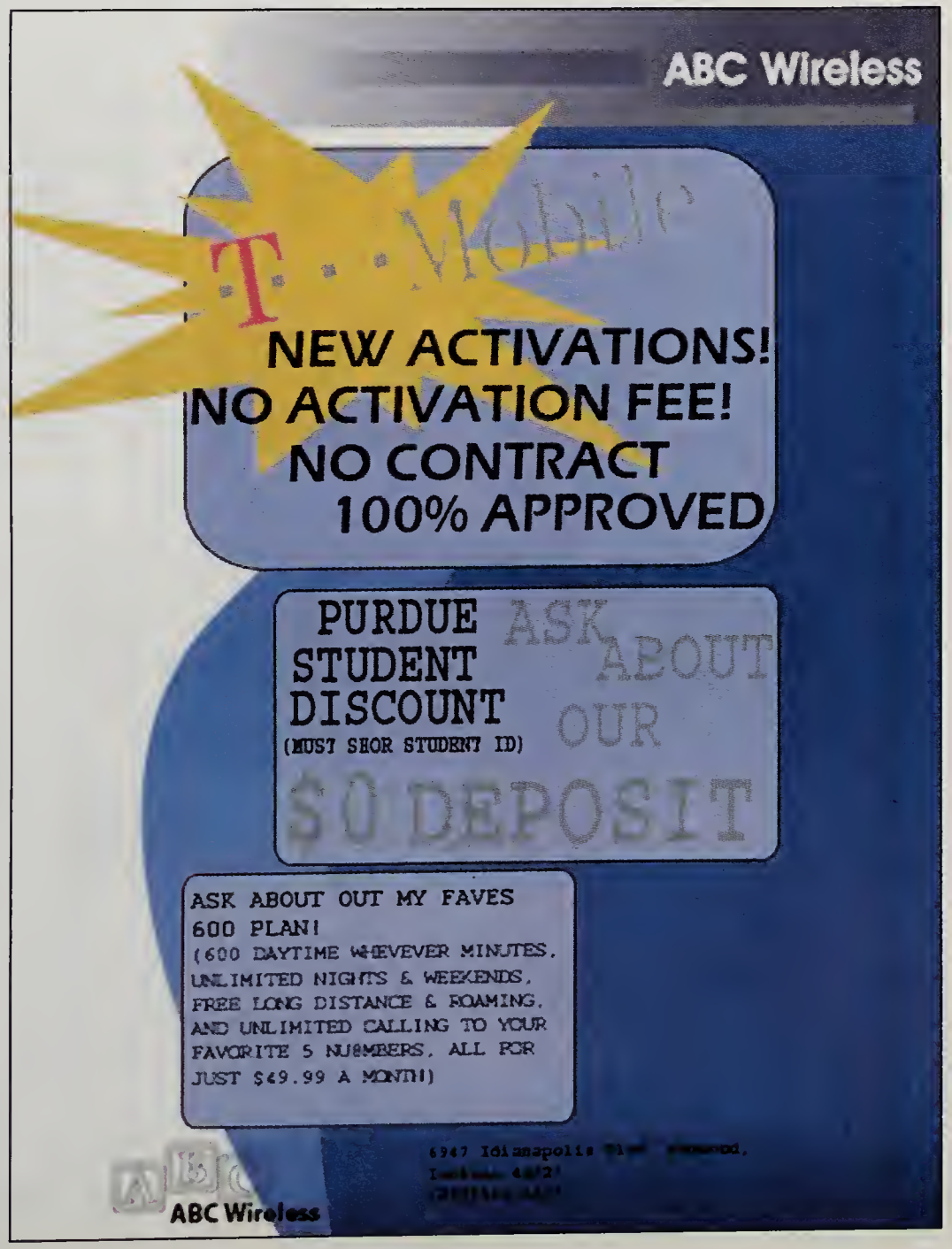
Chamberlain will begin 2008 in the bullpen, but the Yanks want to implement him as a starter by mid-season. He has an electric fastball, two plus breaking balls, a plus changeup, great mound presence and a mean streak that keeps hitters weary at the plate.



5 Chris Young

•Arizona Diamondbacks - 24-years-old - centerfielder

Drafted by the White Sox in 2001, he was traded to the desert in 2006 in the Javier Vazquez deal. Young put up monster power numbers in his first season in the bigs, with 32 homers. He'll need to cut down on his strikeouts and improve his average but is a sensational fielder who can run down fly balls with ease.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